



INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

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MINING AND METALS DIVISION

P O BOX 179, MARIETTA, OHIO 45750

INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE &
DEPARTMENT

To (Name) Mr K C Graham
Division Union Carbide Corporation
Location Mining and Metals Division
Ashtabula, Ohio

Date July 13, 1965

Originating Dept. Works Manager's

Answering letter date

Copy to Messrs F L Evans
L J LaFrance
A H Soeder
J Winterhaler

Subject Radioactive Slag -
Columbium Operation

A few years ago the Niagara plant processed some columbium ore which contained small quantities of uranium. New York State and AEC licenses were required along with special precautions during the operations. Mr. McDaniel monitored the operations, and Mr. E. J. Boyle, who was at Niagara at that time, and who was qualified by training in radioactivity, was designated as the security officer. The slag from this operation is currently being held in a pile behind the Engineering Department office at Niagara.

Recently, we obtained permission from the New York State Health Department to process some Brazilian Araxa columbium ore which contains thorium. The AEC is no longer in the picture, but we applied and received permission to (1) conduct the operation, (2) bury the slag containing the uranium from the old operation, and (3) bury the slag containing the thorium from the second operation. The slag will be buried as prescribed in our old slag dump.

During the recent operation Mr. Leo J. LaFrance monitored the operation, and a copy of his report is attached. The operation of the Araxa ore was primarily to determine the characteristics of the ore and the problems with the thorium. There are large quantities of this ore available for purchase. After we had completed the test operation, we received word from the Niagara County Health Department that our test approval was, in fact, not valid, and they wanted to investigate our dust and fume collection system. We sent them a sketch of the system and recently received word that they did not approve of the simple stack we had above the furnace. It is to be noted that Mr. LaFrance's test results and comments indicate concern over the same situation.

Mr. A. H. Soeder is trying to resolve this question with his own group, the Engineering Department, the Niagara County Health Department and Mr. LaFrance. I assume, at the worst, we will be required to install some sort of dry dust collector so we can collect the dust and bury it.

I am guilty of not having kept you informed of these activities and know that you will not be disturbed since this is our normal procedure. I

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Mr. K C. Graham

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don't think we can get too far out of line as we have so many people watching and instructing us, but I invite your participation as I feel this operation may present a new situation to you. There is nothing to be done now until the Niagara personnel present estimates of what is necessary to make the operation satisfactory so as to obtain State approval for the operation.

GGB/bw


G G Borden

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